



Newsletter

Dear Parent(s)/ Carer(s)

The Easter break is fast approaching and for many students this will be the time for more intensive revision. As our Year 11 and sixth form student's move ever closer to their final exams, it is inevitable that many students will feel under work pressure. It is important that such pressure does not cause undue stress, or revision become counterproductive. It is imperative that students have a careful balance of revision and downtime.

On Tuesday evening we heard from Dr. Van der Spoel about this topic. Specifically how students can learn to balance focus, motivation and study behaviour and ways in which parents can guide and support this through creative and constructive guidance. I hope that those of you that attended left the session with not only with the "how" but also with the "why" of effective learning.

We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 16th April.

Key Dates for April-June

Friday 30 th March- Friday 13 th April	Easter closure
Monday 16 th April	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am
Tuesday 24 th April	Year 10 parents evening (computing)
Thursday 3 rd May	Year 10 parents evening (construction)
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday Monday, College closed
Tuesday 8 th May	Summer examinations commence
Saturday 12 th May	Open Day, 10am-12noon
Monday 28 th May-Friday 1 st June	Half term break
Monday 4 th June	College resumes, students on site from 8:30am

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Spotlight on Science

Science

Year 10 students have almost finished the year 10 specification, they have just started the last chemistry topic. Students will start a period of revision and will then be given mock exams in late June 2018 which will test everything they have learnt this year. Following the mock exam we will start with the year 11 curriculum.

Year 11 have now very nearly completed the whole curriculum and so will be starting revising for the coming exams after Easter. Students should by now be revising solidly at home. Useful revision sites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv>

<http://www.docbrown.info/>

<http://www.gojimo.com/>

Student News and Employer Activities

This half term has been another busy time for students getting involved in community and employer projects, below is just a snapshot:

Construction Level 2 students have benefitted from external assessment and feedback from brickwork industry specialist, Ian Newman. The students really appreciated the industry specific input.

Bank, Camera, Action Competition

The UTC took great pleasure writing to two of our year 11 students, Daniel, Harry and their parents to praise their can do attitude in taking part in the Bank of England's – Bank, Camera, Action competition. The day before half term we received a trophy to acknowledge both Harry and Daniel's participation and endeavours in filmmaking. In the letter received this the education team at the Bank of England said:

"The judges enjoyed watching your entry and were impressed by the students' filmmaking skills. The fact the students produced such a creative film is a great credit to them and they should feel very proud of their achievement."

David Linaker our Digital Media Lecturer said *"I chose Harry and Daniel because I knew the theme of independence would be well suited to them"*



Year 12/13 Interview Practice

Sixth form students have been benefiting from a range of external employer partners completing practice interviews. Two employers that have been supporting students during the last half term:

- SNL consulting
- Alcom

Karma from Alcom said:

“What a great group of students you have!

I'm not sure how much 'practical' help I was though as most of them were already quite clear (and focused) about their post UTC future. But they were very receptive to me looking through their CV's and highlighting areas I thought might value from slight adjustments. I got them to think about the transferable skills they were gaining from their part time jobs/ volunteering / work experience - i.e. working to deadlines, working as a member of a team, communication skills, adaptability etc. I also suggested things they could do to help them stand out against other candidates when applying for the next phase - such as keep a portfolio of work, look for volunteer roles to gain further experience.

So although I wasn't able to impart a huge amount of career knowledge, for me personally it was very eye opening. The students were so unexpectedly open and honest that it took me by surprise.”

Expanding employer programme

On Thursday 15th March 2018, Cameron McAnsh from kynetec.com, came in to support our ever expanding employer program. Cameron took the time to discuss career pathways within the computing industry with our year 13 students, focussed on what they could achieve over the next 3 to 5 years.



We would also like to welcome FastTrack Telecom to our growing number of employer partners.

<https://www.fast-tracktelecom.co.uk/>

Employer Engagement Recognition

Thames Valley LEP and Bucks Business First have “In recognition of the UTCs participation in the Careers and Enterprise Company’s Enterprise Adviser programme and its increased employer engagement in careers inspiration, skills development and curriculum, commended our achievements at their **Careers Strategy Headteacher Summit** which will take place on the **21st March 2018**.

This is a very timely recognition in light of the new Careers Strategy that was released pre-Christmas and adds further evidence to the UTCs commitment to our core values and the personal development of our students.

End of term Grade Sheets

End of term grade sheets will be issued to all students 26th -27th March. If you do not receive a copy of this directly from your child please contact the main reception who will be able to send out another copy, by email to Reception@buckinghamshireutc.co.uk or by telephone 01296 388688.

Summer 2018 Examinations

In the last newsletter I wrote about the intensive examination period which commences 14th May 2018. Year 11 students will receive a hard copy of the revision timetable (including exam dates) with their end of term grade sheet.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish your son or daughter the very best of luck during this often very stressful examination session

Code of Conduct

Professional and appropriate attire for all students

It has become apparent over the past few weeks that the dress code is not being adhered to by many students and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives at the UTC each morning wearing the appropriate attire as per the UTC dress code which can be seen in the parent handbook and on the UTC website. We regularly remind students almost daily about abiding by the UTC dress code. Particular issues occurring are students wearing trainers, wearing jeans, wearing excessively short skirts and excessively large hoop earrings. None of which are part of the published dress code. Students that persist in flouting the dress code will be disciplined accordingly. To avoid any doubt the details can be found below:

At the Bucks UTC it is important that our students have a smart and business like appearance but we are also aware that construction students will have to comply with health and safety regulations as well as wearing clothes that fit the environment they are working in.

The following dress code takes the above into consideration but also allows students to show a level of individuality and the need to effectively represent the Bucks UTC in the local community and workplace. We believe that all students should take pride in their appearance. Smart dressing conveys positive feelings in terms of commitment and attitude to work and it also enables students to show that they fully embrace the UTC’s ethos. This dress code will allow you to choose clothing from a wide range of retail outlets rather than confining you to a uniform shop.

Male Students

Suit

A smart business suit – navy, black, charcoal grey or any other dark colour

or

Blazer

A blazer/ tailored jacket with co-ordinating trousers may also be worn

Shirt

Smart plain business shirt in pale colours

Tie

A smart business-like tie must be worn at all times

Jumper

A plain (no logo), V-neck jumper which co-ordinates with the jacket may also be worn. It must be a v-neck and the tie must be visible.

Shoes

Shoes must be formal, smart and dark in colour (no trainers)



Female Students

Suit

A smart business suit – navy, black, charcoal grey or any other dark colour,

or

Blazer

A blazer/ tailored jacket with co-ordinating trousers, skirt or dress may also be worn.

Blouse

Smart plain business blouse in pale or dark colours

Skirt/Dress/Trousers

Smart skirt/dress or trousers (skirts should be worn on or just above the knee)

Jumper

A plain (no logo), v-neck jumper which co-ordinates with the jacket may also be worn. It must be a v-neck.

Shoes

Shoes must be formal, smart and dark in colour - no trainers and if a heel is desired, it must be low.



Mobile Devices – a further reminder

We wrote to you about mobiles devices in the last newsletter. This is a further reminder – as set out in the parent/student handbook, Bucks UTC recognises the power of mobile technology in the 21st century and its responsible and acceptable use. We do not ban mobile phones from the UTC. However, our policy is that they should be switched off in lesson time and only used in communal areas during break and lunchtime, unless the teacher has permitted the use of mobile phones in lessons as the curriculum requires, for example to record details of homework.

If students do not follow these simple rules, the mobile phone or other mobile device including portable/Bluetooth speaker will be confiscated and will be stored securely in reception where parents can collect them. Headphones should not be visible at any point during lesson time and these can also be confiscated.

If a student refuses to handover an item for confiscation an incident slip will be completed and passed to an Assistant Principal/Duty Manager. Students and parents should be aware that thefts of mobile phones do occasionally take place in the UTC and our response will involve one or more of the following depending upon the circumstances – an internal investigation, referral to the police or no action. Students bring in any mobile devices at their own risk.

If mobile phones are not really needed our advice is that students should leave them at home. The use of smart phones to take and transmit photographs of people without their permission is illegal.

We would appreciate your support in reminding your child about the appropriate use of mobile phones.

Staffing

We are delighted that Anila Khan, maths teacher, has returned from maternity leave. We say good bye and thank you to Mohammed Mushtaq from science and maths at the end of this half term and we are pleased to welcome Daniel Hayman to the science team.

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed a change in surname, I have been married for a while and finally changed my name.

We hope you have a good break and that we do not see the return of bad weather. Finally we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 16th April at 8.30am

Yours sincerely



Sarah Valentine
(Principal)